

ER-8666/1  
DD/S&T-3989-75/2

Lowell E. Bellin, MD, MPH  
Commissioner of Health  
125 Worth Street  
New York, New York 10013

Dear Dr. Bellin:

I can understand your interest, from a clinical point of view, regarding the tests conducted in the New York City subway system. We have already received a query from Mr. Ethan Eldon, Commissioner of Air Resources, in which he evinced some concern. As I replied to him, we can shed little light on the matter. The Central Intelligence Agency was not involved in the test--or in others like it--but only received a report on the matter from its contacts at the Army Biological Laboratory at Fort Detrick. Comments on the report were prepared by one of our officers and included in a memorandum which was provided to the Church committee; that memorandum is the cause of CIA's alleged association with the subway test.

As to the "non-discernible microbioinoculator," the story is much the same. Research was supported by the CIA on the basis of a substantial amount of Army work on the development of a basic weapons system. Though the weapons system was fully developed, Agency work did not lead to an operational system. The later stages of this effort involved attempts to make the system suitable for use in rapidly incapacitating humans in such circumstances as those encountered with terrorists. These efforts were not successful as no way was found to introduce a sufficient amount of incapacitating agent to do the job. In any event, these developments are not likely to find much use in dealing with your problem of rabies control.

If you desire further information on the New York subway system test, I would suggest that you contact the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby  
Director



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Subject: Ltr re studies on the potential transmissibility of various  
airborne diseases within the subway system of New York.  
(Fr. Lowell E. Bellin, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health)

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